

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 ABIDJA 07062 151705Z
ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 AID-05 IO-13 /036 W
-----071505 151926Z /40

P R 151557Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4458
INFO AMEMBASSY ACCRA
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY NIAMEY
AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ABIDJAN 7062

FOR OES/CP AMBASSADOR GREEN FROM STEARNS

REF: STATE 163879

1. DELIGHTED TO HEAR THAT YOU WILL BE VISITING ABIDJAN AUG 1-2.
REGRET TO SAY THAT TONI AND I WILL BE AWAY ON HOME LEAVE AND WILL
THEREFORE MISS SEEING YOU. HOPE HOWEVER THAT YOU AND YOUR SON
WILL STAY IN RESIDENCE WHILE YOU ARE HERE. I THINK YOU WILL BE
MORE COMFORTABLE THERE THAN IN HOTEL, UNLESS YOU ARE ALLERGIC TO
CATS. GOODY COOKE, AS CHARGE, WILL MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR YOUR
PROGRAM IN ABIDJAN, WHICH SHOULD BE AN INTERESTING ONE. AS YOU
KNOW, AUGUST IN FRANCOPHONE AFRICA IS A SLACK PERIOD WHEN MANY
MINISTERS AND OTHER KEY OFFICIALS CUSTOMARILY TAKE LEAVE. WE WILL,
HOWEVER, ARRANGE APPOINTMENTS WITH THOSE WHO ARE AVAILABLE.

2. FAMILY PLANNING IS A SENSITIVE SUBJECT IN THE IVORY COAST AS
IN OTHER COUNTRIES YOU WILL BE VISITING. IVORIAN OFFICIALS FROM
PRESIDENT HOUPHOUET DOWN CONSIDER THE IVORY COAST UNDERPOPULATED
AND PLACE CONTINUING STRESS ON NEED TO BE FRUITFUL AND MULTIPLY.
MOST PROMISING AVENUE OF APPROACH TO POPULATION CONTROL IS PROB-
ABLY THROUGH WOMEN'S AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC HEALTH. IVORY COAST HAS
AN EXTREMELY HIGH RATE OF INFANT MORTALITY AND MANY INFORMED
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IVORIANS RECOGNIZE THAT FAMILY PLANNING -- UNDER WHATEVER NAME --
IS ESSENTIAL TO AN IMPROVED STATUS FOR WOMEN AND OVERALL HEALTH
OF THE POPULATION.

3. ACCORDINGLY, WE WILL SEEK APPOINTMENTS FIRST WITH MINISTER OF
HEALTH JEAN-BAPTISTE MOCKEY (WHO HAS CONSIDERABLE POLITICAL CLOUT)
AND WITH MINISTER FOR WOMEN'S AFFAIRS (LA CONDITION FEMININE)

JEANNE GERVAIS, A HIGHLY INTELLIGENT AND ACTIVE PERSON WHO HAS
ALREADY DONE MUCH TO FOCUS ATTENTION ON THE NEED TO IMPROVE THE
STATUS OF IVORIAN WOMEN. IN ADDITION, IF YOU ARE WILLING, WE
WOULD LIKE TO ORGANIZE A MEETING OF EMBASSY AND REDSO STAFF AT
WHICH YOU AND YOUR SON COULD DISCUSS POPULATION AFFAIRS AND FIELD
QUESTIONS.

4. ONCE AGAIN, WE WELCOME YOUR TRIP AND ARE TERRIBLY SORRY TO
MISS YOU.
STEARNS

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FAMILY PLANNING, AMBASSADORS, VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 15-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977ABIDJA07062
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Expiration:
Film Number: D770252-1038
Format: TEL
From: ABIDJAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770755/aaaabvhn.tel
Line Count: 72
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: f866566b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION OES
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 163879
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1854844
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CHANGED> mcm 20041004
Subject: PUBLIC HEALTH
TAGS: OVIP, SPOP, IV, US, (GREEN, MARSHALL)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/f866566b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009